(c) and (d) Do not arise in view of (b) above.

Providing basic amenities to undertrials

1819. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there are approximately 2,60,000 prisoners in Indian Jails most of whom are not convicted;

(b) whether it is also a fact that three-fourth of the prisoners in the country are undertrials and 20 per cent of them have been languishing in jails for over a year;

(c) whether they are not being provided with proper sanitation, bedding and food; and

(d) if so, what steps are being taken to remove the overcrowding of jails and providing basic amenities to undertrials?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI): (a) and (b) There were 2,04,480 under trail prisoners against the total number of 2,81,380 prisoners in jails in the country at the end of 1999. The number of under trial prisoners who were in jails for over a year at the aforesaid point of time was 36,634.

(c) and (d) Amenities like proper sanitation, bedding and food etc. are provided as per the provisions of the Jail Manuals of the State Governments.

In order to reduce the over crowding in jails, the Hon'ble Chief Justice of India, on the administrative side, wrote a letter on the 29th November, 1999 to all the Chief Justices of the High Courts suggesting that every Chief Metropolitan Magistrate or the Chief Judicial Magistrate of the area, in which a District jail falls, may hold his Court once or twice in a month, in the jail to take up the cases of those under trial prisoners who are involved in petty offences.

The Government have also issued instructions to all the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations to take necessary

action in pursuance of the Supreme Court's order dated 13.10.1999 and 7.12.1999 passed in Writ Petition (Civil) No. 559/1994-R.D. Upadhayaya Vs. State of Andhra Pradesh and Others.

The Central Government have sanctioned a scheme of setting up 1734 Fast Track Courts on the basis of the recommendations of the Eleventh Finance Commission for disposing off long pending sessions cases and other cases involving undertrials on priority.

Solving of North-Eastern insurgency problem

1820. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news article which appeared in 'Lokmat Times', dated the 17th January, 2002, under the heading "Centre not serious to solve North-Eastern insurgency"; and

(b) if so, what is the response thereto and what corrective steps have been taken or propose to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI): (a) and (b) Government has seen the news article. There are reports of some militant groups taking shelter in Bangladesh. The issue is regularly taken up on bilateral basis with Bangladesh. Bangladesh has repeatedly stated categorically that it will not allow its territory to be used for terrorism or against the interests of another friendly country.

Impact of Islamabad's crackdown on terrorists outfits

1821. SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state what is Government's assessment of the impact of the reported crack-down by Islamabad on terrorist outfits like Lashkar-e-Toiba and Jaish-e-Mohammad and their cross-border terrorist activities?